

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SES-02 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /070 W
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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7463
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1896

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BQG
SUBJECT: SOVIETS COMPLAIN IN WEST BERLIN ABOUT WORLD SWIMMING
CHAMPIONSHIPS

REF: STATE 202022

SUMMARY. REPRESENTATIVES OF SOVIET EMBASSY AND CONSULATE
GENERAL APPROACHED OFFICIALS OF THE SENAT AND WEST
GERMAN COMPETITIVE SWIMMING ORGANIZATION IN WEST BERLIN
AUGUST 10 TO PROTEST THE DISPLAY OF THE FLAG OF THE
FRG (AS HOST COUNTRY) AT THE SITES OF THE WORLD SWIMMING
CHAMPIONSHIPS. SOVIETS HAVE NOT RPT NOT THREATENED
TO BOYCOTT SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS BUT HAVE THREATENED TO
CAUSE DIFFICULTIES WITH RESPECT TO WEST BERLIN PARTICIPATION
IN FUTURE INTERNATIONAL SPORTING COMPETITIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. ACTING HEAD OF BERLIN SENAT CHANCELLERY HORST
SCHULTZE ADVISED MISSION AUGUST 10 THAT REPRESENTATIVE OF
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SOVIET EMBASSY HAD ATTEMPTED TO CALL ON SENAT
PRESS SPOKESMAN PETER SOETJE TO DISCUSS UNDISCLOSED MATTERS
RELATING TO UPCOMING WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN WEST
BERLIN SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AUGUST 18. SOETJE REFUSED TO
MEET SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIAL BUT, OBSERVING THAT SUBJECT
TO BE DISCUSSED RELATED TO SPORTS, SUGGESTED THAT SOVIET
CONSULATE GENERAL MIGHT HAVE COMPETENCE TO DISCUSS MATTER

WITH SENAT. CONSEQUENTLY, SOVIET CONSUL DMITRYEV CALLED ON SCHULTZE. DMITRYEV COMPLAINED TO SCHULTZE THAT IT WAS IMPROPER FOR FRG FLAG TO BE DISPLAYED AS FLAG OF HOST COUNTRY SINCE WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS WERE BEING HELD IN WEST BERLIN. SCHULTZE CUT OFF DMITRYEV AND INFORMED HIM THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS SPORTS BUT COULD NOT DISCUSS MATTERS OF BERLIN STATUS FOR WHICH NEITHER THE SENAT NOR THE SOVIET CONSULATE GENERAL WERE COMPETENT DIS USSION PARTNERS. SCHULTZE WENT ON TO SAY BY WAY OF INFORMATION THAT THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE LAID DOWN BY THE INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING ORGANIZATION (FINA). FINA IN TURN HAS INSTRUCTED THE GERMAN COMPETITIVE SWIMMING ORGANIZATION (DEUTSCHE SCHWIMMSPORTVERBAND) EXACTLY HOW THE COMPETITION IS TO BE HELD. UNDER FINA RULES THREE FLAGS ARE TO BE DISPLAYED: THAT OF THE LAST HOST (COLOMBIA), OF THE PRESENT HOST (FRG), AND THE NEXT HOST (USA). THE GERMAN COMPETITIVE SWIMMING ORGANIZATION IS OBLIGATED TO FOLLOW FINA'S RULES. SCHULTZE TOLD DMITRYEV THAT IF THE SOVIETS HAD A PROBLEM THEY SHOULD APPROACH FINA THROUGH THEIR OWN SPORTS ORGANIZATION. IN ANY CASE, THE SENAT OF BERLIN IS IN NO WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTOCOLARY OR TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

2. DMITRYEV ATTEMPTED TO ARGUE THAT THE DISPLAY OF THE FRG FLAG WAS ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO SHOW THAT BERLIN
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BELONGED TO THE FRG. DMITRYEV, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT THREATEN THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD WITHDRAW FROM THE PRESENT COMPETITION, DID SUGGEST THAT IF THE FLAG ISSUE WAS NOT RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY WEST BERLIN WOULD NEVER AGAIN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AS THE SITE FOR INTERNATIONAL SPORTS COMPETITION AND THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WOULD REFUSE TO LET WEST BERLINERS PARTICIPATE IN FRG TEAMS COMPETING IN THOSE COUNTRIES.

3. SCHULTZE ADVISED US THAT SOVIET EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY TRENDELYEV MADE VIRTUALLY THE SAME APPROACH TO HARM BEYER, HEAD OF THE GERMAN COMPETITIVE SWIMMING ORGANIZATION WHO IS IN BERLIN SUPERVISING THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.

4. THE IMMEDIATE SENAT REACTION TO THESE TWO APPROACHES IS THAT THE COMPLAINTS ARE MORE FOR THE RECORD THAN ANYTHING ELSE. SCHULTZE NOTED THAT THE SOVIETS KNEW OVER A YEAR AGO THAT THE FLAG ISSUE WOULD ARISE. HE SPECULATED THAT THEY WAITED UNTIL A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE OPENING TO MAKE THEIR POINT I
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ORDER TO PRESERVE THEIR LEGAL POSITION WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ALLOWING THEM AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEANS--PARTICULARLY THE GDR--TO PARTICIPATE. SCHULTZE DID NOT OFFER AN OPINION ABOUT THE SOVIET THREAT TO EXCLUDE WEST BERLINERS FROM PARTICIPATION IN FRG TEAMS COMPETING IN EAST EUROPE IN THE FUTURE.

5. NO MENTION WAS MADE IN THESE BERLIN PRESENTATIONS OF FRG INTERIOR MINISTER'S ORDER EXEMPTING PARTICIPANTS FROM PRESENTING PASSPORTS DISCUSSED REFTEL. NELSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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